

Filed for intro on 05/24/95  
House Bill \_\_\_\_\_  
By \_\_\_\_\_

Senate No. SJR0278  
By Haynes

A RESOLUTION to honor Mary Elliott of the Donelson Station  
Senior Citizens Center on the occasion of her  
retirement.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this legislative body recognize those who, in their years of work, have performed with extraordinary dedication and unprecedented devotion and have realized important milestones in their distinguished careers; and

WHEREAS, Mary Elliott is one such person who has served with alacrity and acuity for sixteen fruitful years as director of the Donelson Station Senior Citizens Center; and

WHEREAS, growing up in the foothills of the Blue Ridge Mountains, Mary Elliott entertained friends and family with her vaudeville and magic shows she produced in her own garage; and

WHEREAS, although in high school she often worked 12-hour weekend shifts as a salesperson for a dress shop, she always found time for sports, running track, swimming, riding horses, and practicing marksmanship with her own .22 rifle; and

WHEREAS, a natural athlete, Ms. Elliott won several awards for long distance swimming, often biking seven miles up the mountain to a state park reservoir for practices; and

WHEREAS, during World War II, like many “Rosie Rivetters”, she inventoried metal materials at a shipyard, and on weekends she rolled bandages at a local hospital and jitterbugged with soldiers at the local service club canteen; and

WHEREAS, a native of Greenville, South Carolina, Ms. Elliott earned her degree in education after which she took charge of a pre-school class at a US Air Force Base; a beloved teacher at the base, Ms. Elliott often hears from many of these children she sagaciously instructed throughout the 1950s; and

WHEREAS, living in the coastal communities of South Carolina and Florida, Ms. Elliott assisted her late husband in the operation of his restaurant business, managed her own floral and catering shop, and directed four senior centers in rural Florida; and

WHEREAS, our state was surely blessed when Ms. Elliott moved to Nashville in 1979 to head the Donelson Station Senior Citizens Center; and

WHEREAS, an astute professional with a wealth of knowledge and unparalleled competence, Ms. Elliott has led the center from its infancy through its most challenging years; she has overseen the center’s steady growth, requiring a significant move 10 years ago from the Donelson library into the former Donelson Elementary School building; and

WHEREAS, the remarkable success of the center is directly attributable to Ms. Elliott as the center now serves more than 2,500 persons a year and it boasts over 1,000 registered members; and

WHEREAS, this self-proclaimed “workaholic” exemplifies the spirit and dedication that is characteristic of a great Tennessean and in recognition of her selfless service, the Donelson/Hermitage Chamber of Commerce named her 1987 Volunteer of the Year, and she has received commendation from the Tennessee Commission on Aging; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Elliott is an active and vital part of the community and her profession, participating in numerous civic organizations, including the Donelson-Hermitage Rotary Club, the Donelson chapter of the American Heart Association, the Donelson-Hermitage Chamber of Commerce, Jamil Temple of the Shrine and Zonta of America; and

WHEREAS, even though Ms. Elliott has answered the tantalizing call of retirement, it is assured that she will not only be greatly missed, but she will also leave behind a legacy of excellence that will be hard to equal; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE NINETY-NINTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, That we honor the long and outstanding career of Mary Elliott, congratulate her on her retirement, and wish her the best in her future endeavors.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.